



Winter 2009

Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center Educator Newsletter

CALENDAR

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| Mar. 3–5 | Oral Arguments* |
| Apr. 7–9 | Oral Arguments* |
| May 1 | Law Day at the Learning Center |
| May 5–6 | Oral Arguments* |
| May 13 | Court Community Connections: Supreme Court Oral Arguments in St. Joseph County |
| June 22-26 | Exploring Careers in the Law, 10 th -12 th grades |
| July 13-17 | Exploring Careers in the Law, 7 th -9 th grades |

*Michigan Supreme Court Oral Arguments, Motions on Application, Public Hearings, and Administrative Conferences are broadcast on Michigan Government Television (MGTV). See www.mgtv.org for dates and times.

Law Day 2009

A Legacy of Liberty: Celebrating Lincoln's Bicentennial

This year offers many opportunities to celebrate the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth. In addition to President's Day, the national celebration of Law Day (May 1) features a Lincoln theme. You will find a list of the best Lincoln resources, including web sites and suggested readings for grades k–6, grades 7–12, and adults, on our web site at: <http://courts.mi.gov/plc/resources/lawDay09/LincolnCurr.pdf>.



Exploring Careers in the Law 2009

Summer Programs for 7th–9th and 10th–12 Grade Students

Do you know students interested in becoming a lawyer or judge? To learn all about the legal field, they can attend Exploring Careers in the Law at the Michigan Hall of Justice, Lansing.

- 7th–9th grade students explore a range of law-related careers through tours and activities. They meet with judges, lawyers, and other legal professionals, and observe proceedings at Lansing's District Court 54A.
July 13–17, 2009
- 10th–12th grade students prepare and present a moot court, similar to arguments before the Michigan Supreme Court. They serve as attorneys, justices, and other major players. Participants meet with justices, lawyers, and other legal professionals to help them prepare the case.
June 22–26, 2009

For more information, visit <http://courts.mi.gov/plc/resources/programs.htm> or contact Rachael L. Drenovsky at 517-373-5027 or drenovskyr@courts.mi.gov.





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In Brief

Judges—State v. Federal

The chart below compares qualifications and terms for state and federal judges/justices, which are quite different because they function under separate constitutions and laws.

|  STATE OF MICHIGAN JUDGES AND JUSTICES |  FEDERAL JUDGES AND JUSTICES |
|---|---|
| Elected to eight-year (Supreme Court) or six-year terms on a nonpartisan ballot. The Governor makes appointments to fill midterm vacancies; an appointee must run at the next election to fulfill the remainder of the term. | Nominated by the U.S. President and confirmed by the U.S. Senate. |
| Must be a lawyer with five years' experience and licensed to practice in the state. Must be a qualified elector of the district. | No formal requirements , although the Department of Justice and Congress review candidates' qualifications. |
| Terms limited by age ; candidates must be less than 70 years old at election or appointment; may serve beyond age 70 to complete a term. | No age requirements or term limits. Service is for life, although judges may retire when they reach "senior" status, determined by a combination of age and years of service. |
| Outlined by the Michigan Constitution of 1963, Article VI, Sections 2, 8, 9, 12, 16, 19, 22, 23, 24, and 25, see http://legislature.mi.gov/ . | Governed by the U.S. Constitution , Article III, see http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/constitution.html . |

Michigan Supreme Court News Female Majority and Chief Justice

For the second time in our state's history, the Michigan Supreme Court features a female majority, with four women and three men. In addition, the Court is now led by Chief Justice Marilyn Kelly, the fifth woman to serve as head of our state's highest court. Biographies of the members of the Court are at <http://courts.michigan.gov/supremecourt/AboutCourt/biography.htm>.



Chief Justice
Marilyn Kelly

Michigan Supreme Court Bench 2009

Marilyn Kelly
CHIEF JUSTICE

Michael F. Cavanagh
Elizabeth A. Weaver
Maura D. Corrigan
Robert P. Young, Jr.
Stephen J. Markman
Diane M. Hathaway
JUSTICES

BEST OF THE WEB



Elementary – Interpreting the Law

<http://courts.michigan.gov/plc/resources/InterpretLaw.pdf>

This lesson helps students explore what it means to "interpret the law," using examples of real state laws.

Middle and High School – Careers in Law and Legal Studies

<http://courts.michigan.gov/plc/resources/CareersinLaw.pdf>

Cross-curricular lessons and resources for students interested in learning more about careers in the law and related fields. It includes a lesson on ethics.

Visit the Learning Center

Students benefit greatly by visiting our hands-on Learning Center gallery. A limited number of tours are still available for the 2008–2009 school year, and tours are already being scheduled for 2009–2010. To reserve a tour for your group, call 517-373-7171 or visit <http://courts.michigan.gov/plc/reservations.htm>.